

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

East Germany

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT

Possible Revision of Constitution

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REFERENCES

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1. A new constitution for the East German state is being prepared by a group of jurists, among whom are members of the "German Institute of Juridical Sciences" [redacted] The Politburo of the SED has stated that the present Constitution, as adopted by the "People's Congress" in 1949, does not contain the necessary prerequisites for the construction of the bases of socialism in the DDR; a change is particularly necessary since the abolition of the states and the establishment of the new administrative districts.
2. At a meeting of SED jurists concerned with the constitutional revision there was a discussion of the question of a new election, due in October 1953, for the choice of the president of the DDR. Wilhelm Pieck was elected on 11 October 1949 as provisional president; in October 1950 the provisional character of the government was superseded by the formality of an election of the People's Chamber and the Chamber of States, but no new election was held for president. The jurists' meeting considered ways of avoiding a direct election; the choice will be made only by recognized political bodies under assured Communist domination.

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